

To: R8 GKM Leadership Team[R8_GKM_LeadershipTeam@epa.gov]
From: Hestmark, Martin
Sent: Mon 10/19/2015 10:12:10 PM
Subject: FW: Next ARSG Meeting

FYI

From: Lewis, Brent [mailto:b1lewis@blm.gov]
Sent: Monday, October 19, 2015 4:07 PM
To: Peter Butler
Cc: Lonny Bagley; Connie Clementson; Barbara Sharrow; Valori (Lori) Armstrong; Hestmark, Martin
Subject: Re: Next ARSG Meeting

Hi Peter,

As you know BLM was disappointed in ARSG's responses to our requests for recommendations for other AML projects in the Upper Animas; projects other than the American Tunnel. We recognize the American Tunnel as a priority, but as we've stated in the past, BLM has other resource responsibility in the watershed that are potentially impacted by AML and we are moving forward with the EPA to assess these potential impacts.

BLM has been confounded by the lack of support for further characterization of the Upper Animas and the lack of willingness to recognize the agencies strengths and weaknesses in this process. There is no doubt the additional studies by EPA and BLM (originally frowned upon by ARSG and the County) have provided new and important insights to the watershed's dynamics and ecological impacts. Furthermore, the UAA itself frequently states "*more investigation is needed*" to delineate sources, and the UAA itself is based upon a limited amount of sampling. The BLM's strategy remains unchanged post GK blowout and we are eager to continue with additional characterization efforts, augmented with the previous historical data, to improve the health of the watershed.

I currently plan to attend the ARSG meeting on the 27th, but to shed light on BLM's current activities regarding the Upper Animas: BLM will continue characterization efforts with EPA to assess and define problems within the Upper Animas watershed. The data collected this past field season in the Upper Animas will be assessed this winter and a subsequent sampling strategy for FY16 field season will be developed. ARSG will be part of this process. The BLM will be initiating a fish habitat survey in FY16 with Andrew Todd (USGS) and the EPA. Contrary to the previous reports (USGS Pro. Paper 1651) there are fish present in areas above Eureka, and BLM

will use this information and wetland information in prioritizing our resources and future reclamation activities. The work plan for this survey will be developed this winter and implemented next field season. This plan and its development will be shared with ARSG.

Thanks and please don't hesitate to call if you have questions.

On Mon, Oct 19, 2015 at 1:44 PM, Peter Butler [REDACTED] **Personal Email/Ex. 6** wrote:

Hi Mary an Brent

I put Forest Service and BLM activities on the next ARSG agenda. I know that both agencies have been thinking some about how they might address abandoned mines on their respective lands, and I just wanted to open up some dialogue so that everyone knows what each other are all thinking. If you can't participate on the 27th, If you could let me know what you might want me to report to the group, that would be helpful. Thanks.

Peter Butler

[REDACTED]
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